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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EU REFERENDUM - GOVERNMENT
RESHUFFLE AIRBUS-BOEING
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 01, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#)1. EU REFERENDUM - GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE
- [1](#)2. AIRBUS-BOEING

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

LEAD STORIES IN TODAY'S MEDIA ARE DEVOTED TO THE AFTERMATH OF FRANCE'S NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE EU REFERENDUM, THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER RAFFARIN AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S NOMINATION OF DOMINIQUE DE VILLEPIN TO REPLACE HIM, WITH SARKOZY AS INTERIOR MINISTER. WHILE LE FIGARO AND LE MONDE LEAD WITH NEUTRAL HEADLINES, "DE VILLEPIN TO MATIGNON" (LE MONDE) AND "THE DE VILLEPIN-SARKOZY TANDEM" (LE FIGARO), LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION HEADLINES OVER A PHOTO OF BOTH MEN: "THE PRESIDENT'S CRUTCHES." FINANCIAL LA TRIBUNE HEADLINES: "A TOP-NOTCH DUO TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT" WHILE LES ECHOS TITLES: "CHIRAC PICKS DE VILLEPIN AND MAKES EMPLOYMENT HIS PRIORITY." EDITORIALS ARE EQUALLY DEVOTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICES AND THE TASK AHEAD. (SEE PART C)

THE CHOICE OF DE VILLEPIN FOR PRIME MINISTER ELICITS SEVERAL ARTICLES RECALLING THE TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE THEN FOREIGN MINISTER OVER THE WAR IN IRAQ. LE FIGARO CARRIES TWO ARTICLES: "DE VILLEPIN, THE MAN BEHIND THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S." AND "WASHINGTON HAS YET TO FORGIVE." FOR LIBERATION, "VILLEPIN IS AMERICA'S BETE NOIRE." (SEE PART C)

COMMENTARIES CONTINUE IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS BEHIND THE "NO" VOTE. FOR ALEXANDRE ADLER IN LE FIGARO: "HATE FOR THE U.S., OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, MUST NOT BE THE CEMENT THAT CAN FEDERATE EUROPE." (SEE PART C)

LE FIGARO INTERVIEWS FERNANDO SAVATER, A SPANISH INTELLECTUAL KNOWN FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM: "LET US MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE STAUNCH OPPONENTS OF A EUROPE-POWER, WHO ARE NUMEROUS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, MUST BE GLOATING. WHAT A CURIOUS RESULT OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN HATE THAT FLOURISHES AMONG THE OPPONENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHETHER THEY ARE FROM THE POLITICAL LEFT OR THE RIGHT! THE 'NO' VOTE IS A GREAT GIFT MADE TO BUSH."

THE MEDIA ALSO REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON TODAY'S EU TREATY VOTE IN THE NETHERLANDS, WHICH ACCORDING TO LIBERATION IS THE "OTHER COUNTRY OF THE NO" EVEN IF THERE IS "NO DOMINO EFFECT," ACCORDING TO EDITORIALIST PATRICK SABATIER, "BECAUSE THE NETHERLANDS' POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN."

THE LATEST CONFRONTATION BETWEEN BOEING AND AIRBUS IS FRONT-PAGED IN LE FIGARO, LE MONDE AND ECONOMIC LES ECHOS. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EU REFERENDUM - GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

"WASHINGTON HAS YET TO FORGIVE"

PHILIPPE GELIE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/01):

"WASHINGTON'S POLITE CONGRATULATIONS FOOL NO ONE. SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY IN FEBRUARY WHEN AT THE UNSC DE VILLEPIN OPPOSED THE WAR IN IRAQ WITH STAUNCH CONVICTION, HE HAS BECOME AMERICA'S BETE NOIRE. THE EPISODE LEFT ITS MARK IN THE U.S. DE VILLEPIN'S HEATED SPEECH ELICITED LITTLE ADMIRATION IN THE U.S., BOTH BECAUSE OF FORM AND CONTENT. BUT BEHIND THE MAN, WHAT THE AMERICANS REJECTED WAS A POLICY. SINCE THEN, RANCOR HAS SUBSIDED AND FM BARNIER WAS ABLE TO START ON A DIFFERENT FOOTING WITH SECRETARY RICE. BUT SUSPICION OVER FRANCE'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS AMERICA REMAINS. LAST EVENING THE U.S. INDICATED IT WAS READY TO WORK WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, BUT MADE IT CLEAR IT DID NOT FORGET HIS OPPOSITION TO THE WAR IN IRAQ."

"THE 'YES' CAMP ON THE ATTACK"

ALEXANDRE ADLER IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/01): "HATE FOR THE U.S., OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, MUST NOT BE THE CEMENT THAT CAN FEDERATE EUROPE. THE CEMENT OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP CANNOT BE THE REJECTION OF PRESIDENT BUSH AND HIS

POLITICS. IT MUST BE MADE OF THE DETERMINATION TO ADOPT THE SAME AVENUES AS THOSE OF AMERICA: AN ENERGETIC INDUSTRIAL POLICY WITH RESEARCH AS ITS MAIN GOAL AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMON MILITARY FORCE."

"COURAGE"

MICHEL SCHIFRES IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/01): "SINCE, AFTER THE VICTORY OF THE `NO,' POLITICAL CONDITIONS ARE NOT AT THEIR BEST, LET US SHOW SOME DETERMINATION AND DARING. DE VILLEPIN LACKS NEITHER."

"INCOHERENCE AND CONTRADICTIONS"

JEAN-MICHEL THENARD IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/01): "CHIRAC AND SARKOZY SHARE THE SAME TALENT FOR CONTRADICTING THEMSELVES. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BEING INCOHERENT, CHIRAC IS WAY AHEAD. PAST SQUABBLES BETWEEN SARKOZY AND DE VILLEPIN DO NOT PRESAGE A HAPPY END FOR THIS UNNATURAL UNION. CHIRAC IS PERFECTLY AWARE OF THIS. HE IS SIMPLY GAINING SOME TIME WHILE OFFERING THE FRENCH AN ILLUSION OF CHANGE THAT COULD SOON TRIGGER A DOSE OF REJECTION. THE FRENCH, EXASPERATED BY TEN YEARS OF CHIRAC'S RULE, WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE PATIENCE WITH DE VILLEPIN. THE MAN HAS ALLURE AND KNOWS HOW TO TALK, BUT NO PARTICULAR TALENT TO OVERCOME UNEMPLOYMENT."

"AMERICA'S BETE NOIRE"

FABRICE ROUSSELOT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/01): "FOR MONTHS BEFORE THE AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN IRAQ, DE VILLEPIN WAS A THORN IN WASHINGTON'S SIDE. HE BECAME THE FLAMBOYANT SYMBOL OF `FRENCH RESISTANCE.' YESTERDAY, WASHINGTON REMAINED DISCREET AFTER HIS NOMINATION AS PRIME MINISTER."

AIRBUS-BOEING

"AN OPEN WAR BETWEEN BOEING AND AIRBUS"

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/01): "WASHINGTON STARTED THE HOSTILITIES WHEN IT ASKED THE WTO TO SANCTION AIRBUS FOR ITS SUBSIDIES. THE ANSWER FROM BRUSSELS CAME VERY QUICKLY IN THE FORM OF A SIMILAR REQUEST REGARDING BOEING'S OWN SUBSIDIES. THIS NEW EPISODE IN THE TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN BOEING AND AIRBUS MEANS THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAVE FAILED. THE DATE CHOSEN, DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE PARIS AIR SHOW, IS NOT COINCIDENTAL. IF THE U.S. AND EUROPE CANNOT GO BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THEY WILL BE COMMITTED TO A PROCEDURE THAT COULD TAKE YEARS, WITH THE RISK OF HAVING TO START FROM SCRATCH. WTO JUDGES HAVE EVERY REASON TO POINT A FINGER AT BOTH PLAINTIFFS FOR OVERRIDING THE LEGISLATION ON PUBLIC SUBSIDIES."

"AN OPEN WAR BETWEEN BOEING AND AIRBUS"

ERIC LESER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (06/01): "WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE PURPOSELY DRAGGING OUT THE PROCEDURE SO THAT CERTAIN PUBLIC SUBSIDIES BECOME AUTOMATICALLY IRREVERSIBLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING THE NEW A380. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO PROVE ITS DETERMINATION AS IT WATCHES FOR SIGNS OF WEAKNESS FROM BRUSSELS, IN THE WAKE OF THE FRENCH VOTE ON THE EU CONSTITUTION. IT ALSO BELIEVES THAT IT HAS A STRONGER CASE THAN THE EUROPEANS. BRUSSELS SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE WASHINGTON'S CONCERNS REGARDING BOEING'S FUTURE. THE U.S. AEROSPACE SECTOR IN GENERAL IS IN POOR SHAPE. UNDER PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, THE ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO HELP ITS AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER." WOLFF